

Message Text

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22

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 AID-05 ARA-06 ACDA-05 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /095 W

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R 060715Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5920

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES UNN

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

CINLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0822

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINT, PFOR, PO, AO, MZ

SUBJ: AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS IN LISBON

REF: LISBON 482 (DTG 221546Z JAN 76)

SUMMARY: FEB 4 ANNIVERSARY OF MPLA INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE
RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL NOTICE IN LISBON, BUT WAS MARKED BY LOW-KEY
CELEBRATION BY MPLA BACKERS. MANY HERE ASSUME THAT MOZAMBIQUE
IS DELIBERATELY HARASSING PORTUGAL BECAUSE OF GOP'S ANGOLA STAND.
PRESSURE FOR RECOGNITION BUILDS IN DIRECT RELATION TO FNLA
UNITA'S REVERSES ON THE BATTLEFIELD. END SUMMARY

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1. FEB 4 CELEBRATION: GOP TOOK NO OFFICIAL NOTICE OF FEB 4

ANNIVERSARY OF 1961 MPLA STRUGGLE AGAINST PORTUGAL. MPLA SUPPORTERS IN LISBON, HOWEVER, WHO HAD EMPHASIZED DATE IN RECENT CAMPAIGN TO PRESSURE GOP INTO RECOGNIZING LUANDA GOVERNMENT, CELEBRATED EVENT IN LOW-KEY RALLY. HELD IN OFFICES OF FAR LEFT NEWSPAPER, RALLY WAS ADDRESSED BY MPLA MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS, WHO CLAIMED "DE FACTO RECOGNITION" OF MPLA GOVERNMENT BY ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT OFFICIAL RECOGNITION FROM THAT ORGANIZATION WOULD SOON BE FORTHCOMING. FORMER PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMISSIONER IN ANGOLA ADM ANTONIO ROSA COUTINHO ATTENDED MEETING WHILE FORMER PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES SENT MESSAGE EXPRESSING CERTAINTY OF FINAL MPLA VICTORY. COMMUNISTS AND NUMEROUS FAR LEFT GROUPS SENT REPRESENTATIVES OR MESSAGES OF SUPPORT.

2. COMMUNISTS MAINTAIN PRESSURE: COMMUNISTS MEANWHILE KEPT UP CAMPAIGN TO SCARE GOP INTO RECOGNIZING LUANDA GOVERNMENT. IN SPEECH FEB 4 BEFORE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, PCP DEPUTY MANUEL GUSMAO LAUDED MPLA BATTLEFIELD PERFORMANCE AND POINTEDLY NOTED UNITA/FNLA IDENTIFICATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA -- "MOST HATED STATE IN INDEPENDENT BLACK AFRICA." HE REJECTED COALITION GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA AS "HYPOCRITICAL." GUSMAO CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA AS ONLY OPTION CONSISTENT WITH THE IDEALS OF PORTUGAL'S REVOLUTION. HE WARNED THAT FAILURE TO EXERCISE OPTION WOULD LEAD TO DETERIORATION OF PORTUGUESE RELATIONS WITH ITS FORMER COLONIES AND WITH THIRD WORLD. CONCLUDING WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT RECOGNITION WAS "BETTER LATE THAN NEVER OR TOO LATE," HE INTRODUCED MOTION CONGRATULATING MPLA ON ITS FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY. MOTION WAS DEFEATED BY COMBINED OPPOSITION OF DEMOCRATIC PARTIES.

3. CONCERN OVER MOZAMBIQUE: PORTUGUESE RELATIONS WITH MOZAMBIQUE, MEANWHILE, CONTINUED TO DETERIORATE (REFTEL). ALTHOUGH SPECIAL PORTUGUESE ENVOY TO LOURENCO MARQUES ANNOUNCED JAN 23 THAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN RESOLVING NETTLESOME ISSUE OF PORTUGUESE PRISONERS IN MOZAMBIQUE, GOP RELEASED COMMUNIQUE FEB 4 CRITICIZING DECISION BY MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT TO NATIONALIZE RENTED AND UNOCCUPIED PROPERTY. IF CARRIED OUT, MOVE WOULD HAVE DIRECT ADVERSE EFFECTS ON MANY CURRENT OR FORMER PORTUGUESE RESIDENTS OF MOZAMBIQUE. CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMUNIQUE AFFIRMED THAT MOZAMBIKAN DECISION HAD, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF "SERIOUS PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE IN RECENT MONTHS AFFECTED PORTUGUESE RESIDENTS OF MOZAMBIQUE," PROVOKED "GREATEST APPREHENSION" WITHIN GOP. IT ANNOUNCED THAT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WOULD STUDY CURRENT STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AT NEXT MEETING. IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS SAME DAY, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR COOPERATION GOMES MOTA REITERATED CONCERN OVER LISBON'S RELATIONS WITH ITS FORMER COLONIES WITHOUT REFERRING DIRECTLY TO MOZAMBIQUE.

HE STRESSED NEED TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING DIFFICULTIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE TOUCHING "LEGITIMATE INTERESTS" OF PORTUGUESE NATIONALS.

4. COMMENT: PASSING OF SYMBOLIC FEB 4 "DEADLINE" FOR RECOGNITION OF MPLA WILL NOT DISCOURAGE PRO-MPLA FORCES IN LISBON. PERSISTENT PORTUGUESE DIFFICULTIES WITH LOURENCO MARQUES ARE HIGHLY EMBARRASSING TO THOSE IN THE GOP CONCERNED WITH ITS THIRD WORLD IMAGE. MANY HERE ASSUME THAT MOZAMBIQUE IS DELIBERATELY HARASSING PORTUGAL BECAUSE OF GOP'S ANGOLA STAND. PRESSURE FOR RECOGNITION BUILDS IN DIRECT RELATION TO FNLA/UNITA'S REVERSES ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
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